

OCTOBER 2026

RED NOTICE



General secretary's comment

Pay reform remains my number one industrial priority, as general secretary and it is an area where we need to make significant progress. We want to see a pay and reward system that recognises firefighters' skills, enables pay and career progression, and properly rewards the vital role we play in keeping communities safe. Significant work has already been undertaken through the National Joint Council (NJC) and with ministers looking at the future role of firefighters, career pathways and job evaluation. The NJC will meet in October. We will then update members, setting out how you will be engaged as the work progresses.



The FBU made a big impact at Labour conference and TUC Congress in September. We gained formal support for our demands on wildfire resilience and recruitment of thousands of more firefighters. They understand the FBU is a force to be reckoned with. Our message to Ministers and MPs is always the same: invest in the fire service, recruit 5,000 more firefighters with the correct PPE and create a society where we can all share in the prosperity working people create.

Wildfire Summit

Ahead of the summit which will take place in mid-October, it has been revealed the Conservative government failed to implement a

wildfire risk programme in England in 2023 despite saying it would. New data has revealed that more than half of the 29 fire services that responded to requests for information had no wildfire PPE, including Suffolk FRS, which had to deal with an "apocalyptic" wildfire earlier this summer.

This neglect from the previous administration is totally unacceptable, and we will be working with the new PM Andy Burnham, on our 10 demands going forward.

Grenfell Legal Process

The Met Police submitted a Grenfell investigation file to the CPS, which will lead to prosecutions of multiple individuals and companies. After nearly 10 years since the Grenfell atrocity, progress is finally being made towards prosecuting those culpable. The Grenfell families along with our members who were part of the rescue effort that night, have waited far too long for justice to take its course.

BUILD YOUR UNION

GET BALLOT READY

Has your email or home address changed recently? Make sure you contact your FBU brigade organiser with your updated details.

CHECK YOUR NOTICEBOARD

Go and look at your FBU noticeboard. If it's out of date or missing information, tell your rep or update it yourself if you can.

STEP UP AS A REP

If you can, put yourself forward to become a rep or support your branch. The strength of the union depends on members stepping up.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE FIREFIGHTERS FIGHT AGAINST NIGHT COVER CUTS

Gloucestershire County Council is pushing to cut night-time cover at Cheltenham West station. This reckless act will put lives at risk in the local area at a time when hundreds of new homes are being built nearby. The FBU is fighting against these cuts and is planning local mobilisations to coincide with key meetings of county councillors. Brigade chair Kate Yhnell warned that these cuts were the thin end of the wedge and more would be on their way if the union didn't stop the service now.

Cleveland cuts campaign continues

Due to campaigning by Cleveland FBU, the local Council has united behind calls for government to tackle Cleveland Fire Brigade £1.2m funding gap. Local FBU reps have met politicians, including the Mayor of Teeside - all of whom have pledged support for the campaign. Brigade secretary Jim Sudron, and Brigade chair Chris Porter have said they cannot continue to do more with less and that sustainable longterm funding is essential to keep the public safe.



Cuts threatened in West Mids

West Midlands Fire Service plans to cut 24/7 cover at up to 14 appliances, close Ward End station and introduce seasonal resources. The FBU has concerns that there will be reduced availability and changes to agreed terms and conditions. The union continues to engage MPs and Fire Authority members.



Key education dates for your diary

■ 13 - 15 Oct

FBU Introduction to Health, Safety and Welfare at Work course

■ 19 - 21 Oct

Pensions – Supporting Members with Ill-Health Retirement (IQMP)

■ 21 - 23 Oct

Introductory Branch Officials' course

- Blackpool
- Scotland

■ 3 - 5 Nov

Representing Members course

- Reading

■ 10 - 13 Nov

National School 2026

■ 10 - 12 Nov

Health, Safety and Welfare at Work- Development course

